done only in the case of regular employees. There is no system of verification of character antecedents of casual workers.

(b) The contractor doing maintenance work are small contractors and have no permanent labour with them. Getting police verification of casual workers of such contractors is not practicable because the workers are of casual nature.

(c) Yes. One such demand has been received from the residents of the Vasant Vihar by the Project Manager, Mehrauli Badarpur Road Housing Project for engaging workers after verification of character and antecedents etc. No action has been taken on this demand due to the reason mentioned in reply to part (b) above.

Telecast of prices alongwith advertisements

2614. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue strict instructions to Doordarshan to exhibit prices of all commodities while exhibiting their advertisements; and

(b) if so, by when; and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of variations in local taxes like sales tax, octroi etc. and added cost of transport, the retail prices of most products are not uniform for the whole country. As such, it is not practicable to show the prices of commodities in Doordarshan commercial advertisement. Moreover, Doordarshan has no machinery to keep track of the current retail price of each and every product which is telecast.

Indian labour to Gulf countries

2615. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what action Government have taken on the question of waiving the mandatory condition to authorised Labour recruiting agencies to deposit one-way advance air fare in foreign exchange or proof of two-way passage at the cost of the employer for sending Indian labour to Gulf countries, as represented by various Labour Recruiting Agencies; and

(b) what further steps are being taken to prevent the huge foreign exchange loss by way of the above stipulation by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Emigration Act, 1983 and the Rules framed thereunder set out the conditions under which emigrant workers can proceed abroad for work. The Act was framed to prevent exploitation of such workers. Under the Rules, to and fro air passages at employers cost have to be provided for in every contract for employment. All emigrant workers have to fulfil the provisions of the Act and the Rules thereunder, and hence there can arise no question of estimating any such loss of jobs.

Interviews of muster roll workers of CPWD

2616. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interviews for the post of Beldars, Khalisis, Chowkidar, Pump Operators and Wiremen were held by CPWD for regularisation of the services of the Muster Roll workers of CPWD during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number of Muster Roll Workers appeared/qualified in each of the interviews, category-wise;

(c) the number of those who have been regularised category-wise; and

(d) by when the remaining qualified candidates are likely to be regularised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to
(d) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House.

Amendment of Working Journalists Act

2617. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Working Jounrnalists Act for free and healthy press; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY' MINISTER TN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) Government has always upheld the freedom of the press and has urged that it works in a healthy and responsible manner so as to fulfil its legitimate role in a free and democratic society such as ours. This is a larger issue which need not 'be linked to a specific piece of legislation like the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955. In any case, there is no proposal before Government • to amend this Act.

(b) Does not arise.

कपास का उत्पादन लक्ष्य

2618. **श्री मीर्जा इरशादबेग** • क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले वर्ष लम्बे तथा छोटे रेशे वाली कपास के उत्पादन का राज्य-वार क्या लक्ष्य रखा गया था ; इस कपास से राज्यवार, कितनी आय हुई ;

(ख) किसानों को कपास की मुख्य किस्मों के लिए क्या-क्या दाम हासिल हुए ;

(ग) क्या गत वर्ष की तुलना में इस वर्ष कपास के लिए कम मूल्य दिये गये; यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) कपास के आयात और निर्यात के सम्बन्ध में क्या-क्या योजनाएं हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री श्याम लाल यादव) : (क) कपास के लम्बे और छोटे रेशे के उत्पादन के राज्यवार लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किये जाते हैं ।

(ख) पिछले कपास वर्ष के दौरान किसानों ने भिन्न-भिन्न समय पर चल रहे कपास के मंडी मूल्य प्राप्त किए । यह मूल्य न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्यों से अधिक थे ।

(ग) जी हां । मुख्यत: पिछले वर्ष के मुकाबले इस वर्ष अधिक उत्पादन होने के कारण ही ऐसा हुआ है । लेकिन, अब भी मूल्य न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य से काफी अधिक हैं ।

(घ) कपास के शुल्क के बिना आयात की अनुमति हैंडलूम क्षेत्र के लिए धागे की अटि्टयों की सप्लाई के लिए तथा अग्रिम लाईसेंस के आधार पर सूती धागे, सूती कपड़े और बने बनाए कपड़ों के निर्यात के प्रति दी जाती है ।

जहां तक निर्यात का संबंध है, भारत सरकार ने इस वर्ष बंगाल देशी कपास की एक लाख से अधिक गांठें निर्मुक्त की हैं ।

Purchase of iodised salt declared unfit for human consumption by NCCF

2619. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the then Regional Manager (East & West) of NCCF in 1983-84 awarded the pontract for procuring